

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

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U. S. EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

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# A SPECIAL SURVEY OF 44 STATES

BASED ON INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM FEDERAL-STATE  
DIRECTORS OF THE U. S. EMPLOYMENT SERVICE  
AND COMMISSIONERS OF LABOR

SHOWING PRESENT EMPLOYMENT CONDITIONS  
OF THE COUNTRY AND THE GENERAL, INDUSTRIAL,  
AND AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT  
PROSPECTS FOR 1924



WASHINGTON  
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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR  
1902 EMPLOYMENT SURVEY  
U. S. EMPLOYMENT SERVICE  
PRINCIPAL TOWNS OF STATE

# A SPECIAL SURVEY OF THE STATES

REPORT OF INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM LABOR-STATE  
DIRECTOR OF THE U. S. EMPLOYMENT SERVICE  
AND AMBASSADORS OF LABOR

SHOWING PRESENT EMPLOYMENT CONDITIONS  
OF THE COUNTRY AND THE GENERAL INDUSTRIAL  
AND AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT  
PROSPECTS FOR 1901



WASHINGTON  
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE  
1901

1000

## SPECIAL SURVEY SHOWING PRESENT EMPLOYMENT CONDITIONS AND PROSPECTS FOR 1924.

## Alabama.

The industrial employment situation for this period of the year is considered good, except for the continued lack of activity noted in the coal regions, and the present outlook for which industry for the next year is not very encouraging. There is a plentiful supply of labor, particularly unskilled, and no extraordinary demand for skilled labor is expected in the immediate future, though indications are that 1924 will be as good an industrial year with the supply and demand for all classes of labor as well balanced, if not better, than during 1923.

## Arizona,

The demand and supply of all classes of labor throughout this State is very well balanced for this time of the year, and industrial activity continues with very few signs of abatement. Operations in the mining regions, lumber mills, and in the railroad centers are brisk, and an optimistic outlook prevails for 1924. State road construction has been retarded temporarily. When the weather permits and funds become available, the different counties will do considerable road building and employ large numbers of all classes of labor. The past year has been a very prosperous one for the farmers and it is thought that much more land will be under cultivation next year than heretofore.

## Arkansas.

There is some unemployment apparent throughout Arkansas at the present time due largely to the shortage of the crops, which has brought hundreds of farm hands to the cities where their services were offered to the manufacturers and home building enterprises. The number of unemployed has been augmented recently by bad weather, which has delayed road construction and other public work, but a large portion of this excess labor is already absorbed and there is every indication that there will be a decrease in unemployment during the next 60 days or before March 1, 1924, at which time the speeding up of industrial activity will call for an increase in the number of workers needed. The industrial and employment outlook for 1924 is very bright. A large home building program in all probability will start in January; the new highway law goes into effect within a few weeks, which will mean the construction of roads in practically every county in Arkansas; and with a fair demand for farm labor for the planting of next year's crops, it is be-

lied that there will be sufficient employment to absorb practically all the unemployed.

### **California.**

Industrial employment prospects for the coming year are very favorable. There has been no perceptible let up in industry throughout the State other than the usual winter slump. Building construction has continued on a tremendous scale, and it is generally asserted that 1924 will be a year of unusual activity in this line. It is estimated that over \$15,000,000 will be spent in 1924 on new highway construction, which is slightly in excess of expenditures during 1923. Generally speaking the year just closing has been one of prosperity for the California farmers, and it is expected that this prosperity will extend into the coming year. Concerning mining interests, extensive preparations already are being made for a large production in 1924. Judging by present indications there will be in 1924 the same active demand for labor as there has been in 1923, with an increased call for unskilled help.

### **Connecticut.**

Industrial activity in this State is considered in a healthy condition with very little unemployment noticeable. The opinion is expressed that industrial prospects for 1924 are equal, if not better, than those of 1923. While the textile industry at the present time shows some curtailment, there is no reason to believe otherwise than that the early spring months will show this activity on a nearly normal basis. The builders continue well employed, though the winter weather has somewhat slackened operations; however, projects contemplated for the new year, when started, will absorb the available supply of these craftsmen. State road work now seasonally curtailed will be resumed as soon as weather permits, and afford employment to large numbers of unskilled and skilled labor. The demand for all classes of labor is expected to be fully as great as during the past year.

### **Colorado.**

While the usual winter surplus of seasonal workers now exists, indications point to a shortage of labor during the building and agricultural periods of 1924. Industrial activity continues on a large scale, and there is every indication of an expansion in many lines of industry during the next year, with a resultant increased demand for skilled and unskilled labor over 1923. These predicted expansions are particularly noticeable in agricultural pursuits, power, irrigation, drainage systems, and other construction projects, and in the gas and oil fields. Municipal improvements and highway construction amounting to millions of dollars will be continued, and considerable new work started during 1924. There is at the present time some curtailment in employment in the metal mines. It is expected that this industry will show increased activity, with metal miners in strong demand. Employment in the coal mines has increased somewhat during the past few weeks, and an optimistic outlook for the future prevails in this industry. Steel mills are particularly active and should continue, and it is thought that rail-

road shops, though seasonally curtailed at present, will be actively engaged on an increased hour and employment basis within a few months.

### **District of Columbia.**

Employment conditions of Washington are considered on a satisfactory basis, though at the present time there is a surplus of clerical help. The large building program shows some signs of curtailment, expected for some time, though there is little unemployment noted among these craftsmen. The demand for domestics continues about equal to the supply, which is also the case where common labor is concerned—a rather unusual circumstance at this period of the year. An optimistic outlook prevails for 1924. Although it is indicated that there will be a smaller building program, if this proves a fact it will not materially affect the employment of these tradesmen and allied crafts, and there is no let-up expected in the call for unskilled labor.

### **Florida.**

The labor employment situation in this State is considered excellent for this period of the year, there being very little unemployment apparent in any section. The harvesting of citrus fruits is in full swing and reports indicate a shortage of this class of labor, also of general farm help and of certain building tradesmen. However, it is thought transient labor arriving for the winter months will take care of the demand for skilled mechanics. The outlook for the ensuing year is very good, and it is generally accepted that the demand for all classes of skilled labor will be greater during 1924 than was the case in 1923. Common labor will be fully employed on large projects already under way and those to be started in the new year, and on work connected with the road-building program.

### **Georgia.**

At the present time there is some unemployment apparent throughout this State. This is due, however, to the seasonal curtailment of many activities. The outlook for 1924, from an industrial and employment point of view, is good. The building program will not be as large as during the past year, but it is thought that there will be a sufficient amount of work started to employ the supply of these tradesmen. Large numbers of various classes of skilled and unskilled labor will be employed on road construction, which will be continued on a large scale. The farmers throughout the State had a good year, still it is difficult at the present time to state whether or not there will be an increase or decrease in sown acreage for 1924. Farm labor is still scarce, there being a greater demand than supply. There was considerable employment afforded in various mining fields of this State during the past year and indications are that there will be an increase during 1924, which will of course stimulate employment in these regions.

### **Idaho.**

Very little unemployment is apparent at the present time, and industrial activity in this State continues with very little abatement,

other than that seasonal noted. There is no let up expected in industrial activity for 1924, and the demand for both skilled and unskilled labor, it is thought, will be about equal to that experienced in 1923. Building and other construction projects will continue, and in the larger cities will probably increase in volume, especially railroad improvements, which includes shop work, steel bridges, and new trackage. The supply of common labor available in the State will be quite able to take care of the continuation of work connected with the good roads program. It is predicted that the metal mining industry, at present in an excellent condition, will expand operations in 1924. In this industry there will be as great, if not a greater, demand for skilled and unskilled labor, particularly of skilled miners, of whom there appears to be a decided shortage at present.

### **Illinois.**

There are no indications of any industrial let up other than is usually encountered at this time of the year, and strictly chargeable to seasonal work. The only lines that are apparently adversely affected are steel and agricultural implements. Building construction continues, and the program throughout Illinois was unusually large in 1923. A survey of the entire State indicates that there will be as much, if not more, activity in this line during 1924 than in the past year. More hard roads were built in Illinois during 1923 than in any period, and the program for the new year is larger still. The farmers had a fairly prosperous year and are optimistic as to the prospects for 1924. The coal-mining situation is improving, and it is anticipated that there will be a marked increase in the number of men employed within a few months. Generally speaking every indication points to as large, if not a larger, demand for skilled and unskilled labor in 1924 as compared to 1923. However, there was probably a larger number unemployed in Illinois in December, 1923, than in the corresponding month in 1922. This is not due to industrial depression, but entirely accounted for by the large influx of people from other states, especially the fact that in excess of 100,000 colored citizens of the South have moved into Illinois.

### **Iowa.**

During the past month there has been a very sudden curtailment in numerous industries due to unusual weather conditions, which has resulted in a surplus in some sections of common labor. State road construction, municipal work, and building activities were also forced to slacken operations, and those released, of course, increased the number unemployed. However, from every angle, the industrial outlook for 1924 is considered excellent. Municipal and county improvement, which have been delayed for the past few years, will undoubtedly show an increase in volume during 1924 over the previous year. This extension of work will also be found in State road construction, there being more miles of road ready for hard surfacing and paving than was the case at the beginning of the year 1923. The farmers are in a particularly good position as far as 1924 is concerned. This is due largely to the fact that good weather this fall permitted the farmer to complete practically all of his plowing and the making of necessary preparations for spring work. The need for office buildings and other large structures has been partially

met, and the movement for resident building seems to have lessened somewhat; however, the present outlook would indicate that there will be sufficient employment for these tradesmen.

### Kansas.

Industrial activity continues on a satisfactory basis, and there is very little unemployment apparent in any section of the State. The prospects for 1924 compare very favorably with those that existed a year ago for 1923. There will probably be some let up in the milling industry, and the building programs in the various cities will not equal those of the past year, however, no unemployment is expected among these trades. Kansas has adopted a State highway system, and considerable new road construction will be started during the coming year. The farmers, excepting those who specialized in dairying and poultry products, had a particularly bad year, due principally to drought, rain, and floods. Nevertheless they are looking forward to the new year optimistically, and on the whole there will be more diversified farming, which, it is thought, will greatly assist them. Concerning the supply and demand of labor, it is thought that the same will be very well balanced during the coming year. Employers state that the labor turnover is much lighter than has been the case for years; there is very little shifting from one job to another which, of course, reduces the demand for replacements.

### Kentucky.

At the present time there is considerable unemployment apparent throughout the State. Activity in the various industrial centers continues, but on an unsatisfactory basis as far as employment of common and semi-skilled labor is concerned. However, the prospects for 1924 are considered good, and it is anticipated that there will be a greater demand for skilled labor in 1924 than in the past year. There is a large contemplated building program for the new year, and it is thought that there will be more road construction than ever before, which will take care of a great amount of common labor. Activities in the coal-mining regions are very slow, and with the exception of those supplying railroads, mines are working only two to three days a week. The farmers of this State had a fairly prosperous year and are looking forward with optimism to the coming year.

### Louisiana.

In this State during the past year there has been very little unemployment of skilled mechanics in certain trades, others have shown a shortage, especially among building craftsmen. The present industrial employment situation is excellent and the outlook for the new year considered very good. There is not the slightest indication that industrial activity will decrease during the coming 12 months, and many employers believe that 1924 will be even a more prosperous year than 1923. Building programs in the various cities will be continued, and the building trades will be fully employed during the seasonal periods of the new year, and, as this is a mild climate, these crafts will be at work during the greater part of the time. Common labor will be in steady demand, both by farmers and

for work on the good-roads program which has been under way for several years, and will be continued for another two years at least. The farmers are rather skeptical as to the 1924 prospects, due, possibly, to the fact that the year just passed was not as prosperous as the preceding year. The outlook for oil and gas development is encouraging. New fields will be developed and the products will no doubt equal if not exceed those of 1923.

### **Maine.**

Practically all industrial plants in this State are operating on a full-time basis, excepting the shoe factories and cotton mills, which are running part time, consequently there is some unemployment existing in certain sections. The industrial employment outlook for 1924 compares very favorably with that of 1923. Present indications are that there will be as great a demand for all classes of skilled and common labor during the new year as that which existed in 1923. Building construction, which has been heavy, will undoubtedly continue and full employment of these tradesmen is predicted. Road and bridge construction will employ large numbers of all classes of labor. Concerning the farmers of this State, 1923 was more prosperous than either 1922 or 1921, and their condition is much better than at the close of either of those years. A supply of farm labor to meet the demand is sometimes lacking, nevertheless, agriculturists are approaching the work of 1924 with expectations for a year as good if not better than that just past.

### **Maryland.**

From every present indication it is thought that 1924 will be a year of marked business activity and prosperity. There has been very little break in the upward trend, which began two years ago, in industrial employment in the larger cities, and all indications at the present time point to continued progress without a let up in any industry. The past year was not a very prosperous one for the farmer in Maryland. Production was costly, and labor very scarce; the average farmer is not particularly optimistic as to the future in this respect; however, if competent labor can be secured and other contributory causes to the present situation confronting the farmer ironed out, those engaged in agricultural pursuits will show considerable improvement in 1924 when compared with the past year. Activity in the coal-mining fields is at a low ebb, and there is some unemployment apparent in these regions.

### **Massachusetts.**

Industrial activity in this State continues on a scale large enough to eliminate the possibility of any great unemployment problem. In the past few months there has been some curtailment noted in the boot and shoe industry, textile manufacturing, and the metal trades; the latest reports indicate that this slackening is drawing to an end and some of the larger concerns are resuming operations on a practically full-time basis. The outlook for 1924 is considered good and it is probable that there will be an increased demand for skilled labor, particularly after the winter months have passed. Referring to the supply of common labor, as there is every indication that

building construction will continue to be very active, except for the winter interruption, there will be an even greater scarcity of this class of help in 1924 than during 1923. Work on the building programs throughout Massachusetts has been necessarily curtailed, but as soon as weather permits work already under way will be rushed to completion, and there is a large contemplated program in view. It is expected that the demand for these tradesmen will exceed that which existed in 1923. There is an extensive road-construction program contemplated for the new year, and, when this work is started, large numbers of various classes of labor will be afforded employment. The farmers in this State had what is considered a fairly successful year. Tobacco raising was particularly good and the fruit crop was excellent. Poultry raisers were encouraged by the return they received for their product, and because of the diversity of agricultural products in this State the farmers can readily secure a market for their produce. There appears to be a disposition on the part of the farmers to engage more and more in market gardening, and although they anticipate difficulty in securing adequate labor, as has been the case for several years, there is no indication that they propose to limit their activities other than to refrain from undertakings which would make necessary a material increase in labor employed.

### **Mississippi.**

There is at the present time some curtailment noted in the textile and lumber mills, always more or less expected at this time of the year; otherwise the industrial employment condition of Mississippi is regarded as good. The outlook for 1924 is very bright and the demand for skilled and common labor will most certainly equal that of 1923. There is nothing to indicate a slowing down of general building construction which has been unusually active during the past 18 months, and full employment of building tradesmen is practically assured. State projects, consisting of road and other construction work, will continue on a huge scale and employ large numbers of common and skilled labor. Due to unfavorable weather conditions and crop pests, the past year was not a particularly encouraging one for the farmers; the prospects for 1924 are that planting acreage will run about the same as last year and the farmers are more or less optimistic in their outlook.

### **Missouri.**

There is very little unemployment apparent, and industrial activity continues on a satisfactory basis. The outlook for 1924 is considered equal to, if not better than, that which prevailed one year ago. Reports indicate that there will be as great a demand for all classes of labor during the new year as existed in 1923. State road work and a large building program will be continued. The farmers of Missouri were more prosperous in 1923 than in 1922 and their attitude toward 1924 is optimistic. There may be a slight decrease in the total acreage under cultivation; the corn, oats, and soy bean acreage will show a large increase over 1923. The coal mining industry at the present time is at a low ebb, there being very little activity in the lead and zinc fields, and the coal mines are operating but two or three days a week.

### **Montana.**

There has been a seasonal let up in industry throughout this State, and except the demand for skilled metal miners, a small surplus of certain classes of labor is noticeable in some sections. A survey indicates that the year 1924 will see the continuation in volume of practically all labor activities experienced in 1923. Some expansion is predicted, especially in building construction, railroad building, and trackage. Farming activities will continue with a probable increase in acreage sown to corn and beans, with the supply of this class of labor sometimes adequate and at others far short of the demand. Concerning the general outlook for 1924, there are factors that indicate a more hopeful prospect in agricultural and industrial pursuits than that which has prevailed during the past few months.

### **Nebraska.**

The present industrial employment situation is considered satisfactory, there being very little unemployment apparent other than workers released by the seasonal curtailment of some operations. The prospects for 1924 are very good. A big building program is planned which will be as large as that carried on during the past year and will include the building of a new State capitol. Over 400 miles of State highway will be graded if present plans are carried out, and the demand for skilled and common labor, it is generally thought, will be larger in 1924 than during 1923. Although the farmers had only a fair year, reports indicate that there will be very little decrease in the acreage planted next year; but that will depend on the available supply of this class of help.

### **Nevada.**

Generally speaking the industrial employment situation, in this State, is very satisfactory. From all indications the building program for 1924 will be on about the same scale as that of 1923. Several large irrigation and drainage schemes are in prospect, and several mills are in process of construction, or contemplated for the new year. About 225 miles of new highway construction will be started, which, together with a considerable sum of money to be expended on maintenance work, will employ large numbers of men. The year 1923 has not been a particularly prosperous one for farming and stock raising, and the outlook for 1924 is not particularly bright. It is not thought that any substantial improvement in mining and farming will be realized during 1924. Lumber operatives are increasing their activities, and will continue this program for some time to come.

### **New Hampshire.**

There is a slight seasonal let-up in industry, always expected at this time of the year. The textile, cotton goods, and hosiery mills which recently closed have started up, and in a very short period it is thought will be running on a full-time basis. There is at present no serious problem of unemployment, the demand and supply of all classes of labor being fairly well balance. The prospects are good for the continuation of large building programs throughout 1924, and it is thought that there will be as great a demand, if not greater, for skilled craftsmen as that experienced during the past 12 months.

Generally speaking the farmers had a good year and their attitude toward the ensuing year is optimistic.

### New Jersey.

There is some seasonal slackening noted in industrial activity at the present time; however, there is very little unemployment apparent in any section of the State. The industrial and employment outlook for 1924 is very bright, and the opinion is generally accepted that there will be as great a demand for all classes of labor throughout 1924 as that which existed in 1923. The continuation of large building programs and road construction on a huge scale is assured, and the demand for this class of labor will be lively. The farmers of New Jersey are somewhat discouraged, due to the outcome of the past year, and while there is no anticipated decrease in sown acreage for 1924, it is thought that some farms will be abandoned because of the difficulty in securing labor.

### New York.

There has been some seasonal curtailment of industrial activity, with a consequent decline in employment in several industries, still there is no very great unemployment problem in any section of the State. The industrial and employment outlook for 1924 is considered excellent. It is very probable that in the first half of the year the demand for all classes of labor will be approximately the same as in the corresponding period of 1923, with some increase in certain trades. Contemplated building construction already exceeds that which was planned for the year 1923, and it is safe to predict that full employment will be assured to all the building tradesmen as soon as the seasonal curtailment which has been very light this year is lifted. State road construction and municipal improvement projects will employ large numbers of various classes of labor.

### North Carolina.

Though 1923 has been a banner year in many respects, the prospects for 1924 appear as good, and perhaps better, than those for 1923 did at this time last year. Industrial activity, which has been maintained at almost the peak, shows no signs of abatement, and from plans made by manufacturers in various industries throughout the State, it would seem that there will perhaps be an increase of industrial activity. Agricultural results have exceeded all expectations. The cotton crop of 1923 was the second largest in the history of the State, and came at a most opportune time for the farmers, the price received for this product being perhaps greater than any heretofore obtained. At times it was impossible for the farmers to secure all the help needed, and as a consequence many of them were obliged to have members of their families in the fields to assist in harvesting the crops. The farmers are looking forward to the new year with high hopes, and if there is a greater supply of this class of labor available in 1924 than was the case during the past twelve months, there is every indication that it will be entirely absorbed. The larger building programs carried on in the various centers of the State will be continued, and it is predicted that the new construction for 1924 will exceed that of the past year and larger numbers of skilled and unskilled labor will be permanently employed. During the past year the program of completing several

hundred miles of roadway has been successfully carried out, and road construction in North Carolina will be an important item during 1924, and large numbers of common, semi, and skilled workers will be needed on this work. Generally speaking it is safe to predict that 1924 will be a period of prosperity as great or perhaps greater than that of 1923. The farmers are hopeful, building activities are constantly expanding, road building and municipal programs are larger than heretofore, manufacturing plants operating on a full time basis, with no prospects of slowing down, and the industrial employment situation is considered excellent in every respect.

### **North Dakota.**

There is some unemployment apparent in this State at the present time which, however, is due largely to the seasonal curtailment of many activities. The outlook for 1924 is considered fair, though the present indications are that the demand for skilled help will not be as great as during the past year. The building program of the past year has been practically completed, and it is thought there will be less activity in this line during the new year. The mining of lignite coal is increasing, with its subsequent affect on employment. The farmers of the State did not have a particularly encouraging year. Labor was scarce and cost of production great, and the outlook among the agriculturists is not bright unless conditions change materially.

### **Ohio.**

The industrial employment conditions existing to-day are considered good. All activities except those purely seasonal are operating, and there is very little unemployment apparent. Building construction, which has been active during the past year, will in all probability be greater in volume and employment in 1924. Prospects in the mining industry for the immediate future are not particularly pleasing, the industry at the present time only operating 50 per cent, and many mines are entirely closed. Road construction and maintenance of road throughout the State will be continued, and contemplated work will mean the employment of large numbers of skilled and semiskilled labor. The farmers have had a fairly prosperous year, and their attitude toward the future has changed from one of pessimism to a fair degree of hopefulness. The difficulty experienced during the past year in securing farm labor has, to some extent, made the farmers a little afraid to increase the acreage for 1924, and in some sections a reduction of sown acreage might possibly result. As a whole it is thought that the coming year will compare most favorably with the year 1923. Employment will no doubt be constant, with no great labor shortage, no extreme unemployment, and the demand equalling the supply in both skilled and common labor.

### **Oklahoma.**

Industrial activity in this State has experienced some set back and let up, and there is some unemployment noticeable, especially is this the case in the oil industry. The past six months has been the darkest in the history of the oil business; however, the industry can now

see, or begin to see at least, some lifting of this depression in the near future. Cotton picking in the counties where the cotton came on late is practically over, and the pickers are now beginning to travel back into the large industrial towns, and are adding to the number of those out of work. The outlook for the ensuing year is considered fair, and if the anticipated improvement in the oil fields occurs it will be a better year industrially than 1923. Considerable work will probably be done in connection with the furtherance of the good roads program, and will give employment to many hundred of various classes of labor.

### Oregon.

There is at the present time a slowing up of employment which is, however, seasonal at this time of the year. Building construction has been good in 1923, and prospects are that operations in the structural building lines will be equally as active in the coming year. The industrial outlook in Oregon bids fair to be one of general activity. At present there is no indication of any let-up in activities of the State's industries, and the basic industries, logging and lumbering, will continue their large operations into 1924. Road making will come close to matching that of the past year and will assure employment to a large number of men. The past year was not particularly prosperous for the farmer in Oregon, excepting those raising sheep for wool and in the production of dairy products. Reports indicate that the planting acreage will be equal in the new year to that of 1923, with the exception of new planting in which an increase is expected.

### Pennsylvania.

The industrial prospects for 1924 are especially bright in the building and construction industries, including house, bridge and road building. There has been a gradual slowing down in the steel industry and the industries allied with it, such as bituminous coal, pig iron, etc., however, orders for structural steel to be used in building operations in 1924 should bring the steel industry back to a normal production and employment basis. At the present time there is some unemployment apparent in Pennsylvania largely due to the seasonal lay offs which always occur at this period of the year. Those that have been released however are chiefly migratory and colored workers, who are not now seeking further employment, but are going southward for the winter months. The anthracite coal industries are operating practically to full capacity. The large bituminous coal mines are operating from two to five days per week and many of the smaller bituminous mines are closed. It is anticipated that the present scale of production and employment in the anthracite field will continue throughout 1924, and the bituminous field will probably improve as the steel industry picks up. Continuation and expansion of the 1923 State road program during 1924, will take care of a tremendous amount of skilled and unskilled labor, and it is fully expected that the demand for all classes of labor will be as great throughout 1924 as was the case in the year just ending. The farmers in this State are conservative in their attitude toward the prospects for 1924 in this activity, and it is thought that there will be a reduction in the acreage sown in grain.

### **Rhode Island.**

The present rate of industrial activity in this State is sufficient to absorb the large number of workers dependent upon the running of these industries, and there is very little unemployment apparent in any section of the State. The industrial outlook for 1924 is considered very good, and it is thought that the demand for all classes of labor will continue as strong as during 1923, with a possible shortage existing later on among the building trades. While last year was not a particularly prosperous one for Rhode Island farmers, it was the best of the last four years, and an optimistic attitude is taken by the agriculturists toward 1924.

### **South Carolina.**

There is very little unemployment evident in any section of the State, and industrial activity continues with but few exceptions on a thoroughly satisfactory basis. Some textile plants continue operating night, as well as day shifts, and generally speaking it is thought that there will be but very little let-up in the present rate of activity. From present indications the demand for skilled and unskilled labor, the next 12 months, will be as great, if not greater than during 1923. Building construction projects of considerable magnitude will be started, adding to an already large program now underway. Road construction and maintenance and concrete bridge work will afford employment to large numbers of skilled and unskilled labor. Farmers have just completed a very prosperous year and are looking forward to 1924 with more enthusiasm than has been exhibited for many years. Produce brought a good price and cotton reached the highest market of the past few years. It is almost certain that there will be no decrease in the planting acreage for 1924, and very probably that in some sections the sown acreage will show an increase.

### **South Dakota.**

There is a slight surplus of common and skilled labor existing in certain sections of the State, which, however, is looked for at this period of the year. The curtailment of some industrial activities, and the necessary cessation of construction work, is largely responsible for this condition. The outlook for 1924 is good, and it is predicted that there will be a greater demand for all classes of labor after the winter months than existed at the same time in 1923. Large building and road construction programs will be continued and work will commence immediately if weather conditions permit.

### **Tennessee.**

At the present time there is some unemployment noted in the larger centers of this State. This, however, is not an altogether unusual circumstance at this time of the year. Industrial activities, excepting coal mining and some railway repair shops, are operating on a practically full-time basis, but are not increasing their working force. The industrial employment outlook for the New Year is considered good. Considerable building is already underway and many new construction projects are contemplated. These, when started, will take care of practically all skilled and semi-skilled tradesmen available. During the past year it has been

extremely hard to secure farm labor, and it is thought that unless this difficulty is overcome, there will be some curtailment in agricultural activities. However, the last year has been a prosperous one for the farmer, good crops were raised with profitable return made for the same, and the outlook for the new year is bright.

### **Texas.**

Industrial activity continues on a satisfactory basis and there is very little unemployment apparent in any section of this State, other than that which is seasonal. Building activities continue unabated, particularly construction of brick, stone, and cement projects, and craftsmen of this kind are virtually all absorbed. The industrial employment outlook for 1924 is excellent. With the possible exception of bituminous coal mining and oil well activities, employment opportunities for all classes of labor will be greater than during the year just ended. Generally speaking, the farmers had a prosperous year and are enthusiastic over the prospects for the new year.

### **Utah.**

The demand and supply of all classes of labor throughout this State seems to be very well balanced at the present time. Industrial activity is progressing nicely, and the prospects for the ensuing year appear to be good. From present indications, it is thought the demand for all classes of labor will be as great during 1924 as was the case in the year just past. Building construction will employ large numbers of skilled tradesmen and the contemplated 1924 program will exceed that of 1923. Road construction, which is taking care of large numbers of various classes of labor, will continue to give employment to many hundreds of workers. The past year was not a particularly prosperous one for the farmers of Utah, but was better than 1922. However, improvement is expected in 1924 due to more intelligent planting of crops, and cooperative marketing facilities which, of course, is dependent upon the supply of this class of labor.

### **Vermont.**

Industrial prospects for 1924 are considered very good. Present indications point to the satisfactory continuation of all activities, and the demand for skilled and unskilled labor in 1924 will be, at any rate, as large as in 1923. Building construction, which has been somewhat curtailed due to the winter weather, will pick up within a few weeks, and work contemplated will assure a program of the same magnitude, if not greater, than that of 1923. The past year was a fairly prosperous one for the farmers, although there was much difficulty with the help problem, especially at haying time, some hay not being harvested as a result. However, as a whole the farmers came through the season better than they at one time expected. There is a probability that the planting acreage for 1924 will show an increase over the number of acres under cultivation during the year just ended. Quarrying of granite, marble, and slate continues on a large scale, which will very probably increase in the months to come.

### **Virginia.**

Skilled and unskilled labor is very well employed throughout Virginia, and the continuation in the larger cities of building programs will furnish employment to large numbers of these tradesmen and mechanics. Industrial activity shows very little sign of seasonal abatement, and there is no unemployment problem at the present time. The outlook for 1924 is bright, there being no indication of any lessened industrial activity for the year to come than that which has been experienced during 1923.

### **Washington.**

Industrial activity continues on a satisfactory basis for this period of the year, and there are no more than the usual number of unemployed apparent. Prospects for the new year, industrially, agriculturally, and generally, are considered excellent. Lumber and its manufactured products—one of the principal industries of the State—which has not been any too good the past few months, is already beginning to pick up, and there is every indication that this improvement will be maintained. Food and kindred products, another important industry, was better during the past year than in 1922. If farm production is as favorable as present conditions indicate, business should gradually grow better in 1924 and show a marked increase in manufactured output. Salmon canning particularly is in a very healthy condition, and it is probable an increased demand for this class of labor will occur during the season of 1924. A normal activity, tending toward an increase in employment, is expected in all industries with no probability of a let up in operations, and the demand for labor will certainly not be less in 1924 than in 1923. Skilled labor in leading industries is hardly equal to present demands, especially in lumber and steel. However, there will be some unemployment during January and February because of seasonal conditions. The prospects for building construction during 1924 are good, and it is thought that the amount of labor necessary for the satisfactory continuation of work contemplated and already under construction will at least equal that of 1923. The past year for the farmers was not very encouraging. While the yield was unusually heavy, the cost of production and other circumstances, such as supply of labor, had its effect upon the agriculturalists outlook for 1924. A slight tendency toward diversification is noticeable, but it is doubtful if farmers are in position to finance a very great change at this time. However, with moisture, and other highly favorable conditions prevailing for another record yield, there is a note of optimism apparent, as it is felt that economic conditions beyond human control have largely contributed to their present situation. While several farms have been relinquished or abandoned, especially in the drier sections, and will go without tillage in 1924, still the number of acres sown in Washington will not be reduced, but will probably show an increase.

### **West Virginia.**

At the present time there is a slight surplus of unskilled workmen in the larger cities which is due to seasonal curtailment of outside work. More labor was employed in road building during the past

year than any previous year in the history of this State, and the amount of work planned for 1924 will be equally as great, which assures employment to large numbers of this class of labor. Taking the various industries into consideration, the outlook for 1924 is very encouraging. While there is now and then some seasonal curtailment, this as a whole does not affect any great number of employees, and in most cases it is a class of labor that can be placed in other industries. In regard to unskilled workers, we expect a surplus at this season of the year. However, the demand for common laborers during 1924 will be as great, and probably greater, than that of the year just past. Building tradesmen are well employed, the outlook in this industry is excellent, and the coming year promises a general expansion which will naturally stimulate the building programs. There is very little activity around the mines of this State. It is estimated that one half of the coal mines normally in operation are idle at the present time, and those operating are on a part-time basis. Consequently there has been considerable unemployment of this class of labor and present indications are that the supply will be quite equal to the demand of 1924.

### **Wisconsin.**

There is very little unemployment apparent in this State, and industrial activity continues with very little abatement. The outlook from an industrial employment point of view for 1924 is considered satisfactory. Building construction during 1924 may not be quite as extensive as in the past year; however, full employment among these tradesmen is predicted. Highway construction will continue during the new year, and it is thought that more labor will be necessary for the satisfactory completion of projects contemplated than was actually used in 1923. The farmers had only a fair year; however, the acreage for cultivation during 1924 will be as large as that of 1923.

### **Wyoming.**

Prospects for 1924 are very encouraging, especially in the oil industry. The installation of a \$10,000,000 electrical plant in the Salt Creek oil field means additional employment for machinists, skilled and semiskilled workers, and common laborers. As the housing shortage continues building operations will be equally as brisk as they have been during the year just past. Work on road construction will continue and afford employment to large numbers of this class of labor. The farmers of this State did not have a very encouraging year, owing to the fact that certain crops could not be harvested before the early frosts and the difficulties experienced in securing sufficient help. However, owing to the heavy rainfall during the summer months, range conditions are said to be very good; this means an abundance of grass, and that conditions for cattle raising and other stock activities should be excellent.





